

CLAIMS:

1. A method for distributing both IP signals and non-IP signals in an Ethernet based network, wherein the Ethernet based network comprises UTP cabling comprising a number of wires, the method comprises distributing said non-IP signals through a signal path based on wires comprised in said cabling and not being used for distributing said IP signals.
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2. A method according to claim 1, wherein an adaptation is performed on either said signal path or said non-IP signals before distributing said non-IP signals on wires comprised in said cabling.
- 10 3. A method according to claim 2, wherein an adaptation performed on said signal path comprises adapting the impedance of said signal path.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said adaptation is achieved by active adaptation of the signal propagation by control of driver strength.
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5. A communication system for distributing both IP signals and non-IP signals in an Ethernet based network, wherein the communication system comprises UTP cabling comprising a number of wires, where the wires comprised in said cabling, which are not being used for IP signals, are adapted for distributing said non-IP signals.
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6. A communication system according to claim 5, wherein said system comprises means for performing an adaptation on either said signal path or said non-IP signals before distributing said non-IP signals on wires comprised in said cabling.
- 25 7. A communication system according to claim 6, wherein said means for performing an adaptation on either said signal path or said non-IP signals comprise means for adapting the impedance of the signal path for distributing said non-IP signal.

8. A communication system according to claim 7, wherein said means for adapting the impedance of the signal path for distributing said non-IP signals comprise means for performing active adaptation of the signal propagation by control of driver strength.

5 9. A communication system according to claim 5-8, wherein the system comprises a gateway, said gateway being adapted for:

- receiving non-IP signals,
- performing an adaptation on either said signal path or said non-IP signals before distributing said non-IP signals on wires comprised in said cabling,

10 - transmitting said processed non-IP signals via the Ethernet based network.

10. A communication system according to claim 5-9, wherein the system comprises a router, said router being adapted for routing the non-IP signals, enabling the non-IP signals to be broadcasted to all end points in the Ethernet network.

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11. A communication system according to claim 5-10, wherein the system comprises a switch, said switch being adapted for:

- transmitting said non-IP signals,
- switching between said non-IP signals and said IP signals.

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12. A gateway adapted to be used in a communication system according to claim 6, wherein the gateway is adapted for:

- receiving non-IP signals,
- performing an adaptation on either said signal path or said non-IP signals

25 before distributing said non-IP signals on wires comprised in said cabling,

- transmitting said processed non-IP signals via the Ethernet based network.

13. A router to be used in a communication system according to claim 6, said router being adapted for routing the non-IP signals enabling the IP signals to be broadcasted to all end points in the Ethernet network.

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14. A switch to be used in a communication system according to claim 6, wherein said switch is adapted for:

- transmitting said non-IP signals,

- switching between said non-IP signals and said IP signals.